

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 03-02, filed 2/23/04, effective 3/25/04)

WAC 182-50-005 Definitions. When used in this chapter:

(1) "Appointing authority" shall mean the following persons acting jointly: The administrator of the health care authority, the secretary of the department of social and health services, and the director of the department of labor and industries.

(2) "Committee" means the independent Washington state pharmacy and therapeutics committee created by RCW 41.05.021 (1)(a)(iii) and 70.14.050. At the election of the department of social and health services, the committee may serve as the drug use review board provided for in WAC 388-530-1850.

(3) "Drug" means the term as it is defined in RCW 69.41.010 (9) and (12).

(4) "Endorsing practitioner" means a practitioner who has reviewed the preferred drug list and has notified the health care authority that he or she has agreed to allow therapeutic interchange of a preferred drug for any nonpreferred drug in a given therapeutic class.

(5) "Practitioner" means a health care provider, except a veterinarian, as defined at RCW 18.64.011(9).

(6) "Preferred drug" means a drug selected by the appointing authority for inclusion in the preferred drug list used by applicable state agencies for state purchased health care programs.

(7) "Preferred drug list" or "PDL" means the list of drugs selected by the appointing authority to be used by applicable state agencies as the basis for the purchase of drugs in state purchased health care programs.

(8) "Prescription" has the meaning set forth in RCW 18.64.011(8).

(9) "Refill" means the continuation of therapy with the same drug (including the renewal of a previous prescription or adjustments in dosage) when a prescription is for an antipsychotic, antidepressant, chemotherapy, antiretroviral, or immunosuppressive drug, or for the refill of a immunomodulator/antiviral treatment for hepatitis C for which an established, fixed duration of therapy is prescribed for at least twenty-four weeks but no more than forty-eight weeks.

(10) "State purchased health care" has the meaning set forth in RCW 41.05.011(2).

(11) "Therapeutic alternatives" are drug products of different chemical structure within the same pharmacologic or therapeutic class and that are expected to have similar therapeutic effects and safety profiles when administered in therapeutically equivalent doses.

(12) "Therapeutic interchange" means to dispense, with the endorsing practitioner's authorization, a therapeutic alternative

to the prescribed drug.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 03-02, filed 2/23/04, effective 3/25/04)

WAC 182-50-200 Endorsing practitioner therapeutic interchange program; effect of practitioner's endorsing status; dispense as written instructions. (1) When filling prescriptions for participating state purchased health care programs, pharmacists shall dispense a preferred drug in place of a drug not included in the preferred drug list in a given therapeutic class whenever pharmacists receive a prescription from an endorsing practitioner except:

(a) If the endorsing practitioner determines the nonpreferred drug is medically necessary by indicating "dispense as written" on the prescription; or

(b) If the prescription is a refill of an antipsychotic, antidepressant, chemotherapy, antiretroviral, or immunosuppressive drug, or for the refill of a immunomodulator/antiviral treatment for hepatitis C for which an established, fixed duration of therapy is prescribed for at least twenty-four weeks but no more than forty-eight weeks.

(2) When a therapeutic interchange is made, the pharmacist shall notify the endorsing practitioner of the specific drug and dose dispensed.

(3) When a nonendorsing practitioner issues a prescription for a drug not included in the preferred drug list, the pharmacist shall dispense the prescribed drug in accordance with the requirements of RCW 69.41.100 through 69.41.180.